

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

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R 230859Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5736

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANILA 10075

E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, RP, TH, SEATO, ASEAN

SUBJECT: PRESS ON SECOND DAY OF KUKRIT VISIT TO MANILA

REF: (A) MANILA 10030 (NOTAL)

(B) MANILA 10047

1. ACCORDING PRESS BRIEFING BY INFO SECRETARY TATAD, KUKRIT-MARCOS TALKS ON PRESIDENTIAL YACHT JULY 22 FOCUSED ON INSURGENCY PROBLEMS AND PARTICULARLY ON ENTRY OF WEAPONS USED IN VIETNAM WAR. TATAD SAID MARCOS DISCLOSED "POSSIBLE LANDING OF ARMS" IN PHILIPPINES (DATE NOT DISCLOSED AND SOURCE ALLEGEDLY UNKNOWN). THAIS SIMILARLY BRIEFED PRESIDENT ON ARMS MOVEMENT ACROSS THEIR BORDERS "NOT NECESSARILY BY COMMUNIST ELEMENTS BUT BY GUN RUNNERS."

2. AS NOTED REF. B, TATAD SAID A START WAS MADE TO EXPLORING "ALTERNATE POSITIONS" ON SEATO. COLUMN BY
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SENIOR CORRESPONDENT VICENTE TANEDO IN TIMES JOURNAL

PARALLELS REMARKABLY CLOSELY VIEWS OF THAIS EXPRESSED PRIVATELY TO AMBASSADOR (REF. B) ON DESIRABILITY OF SOMEHOW MELDING SEATO FUNCTION INTO STRENGTHENED ASEAN. COLUM IS VAGUE AS TO HOW THIS MIGHT BE ACHIEVED (AND EMPHASIZES THAT SEATO ASEAN TRANSITION" CANNOT BE A HURRIED PROCESS.").

3. TATAD INDICATED THAT LEADERS COMPARED NOTES ON CHINA BUT REVEALED NO DETAILS. HE SAID DISCUSSIONS ON ASEAN AND OTHER TOPICS WOULD BE CONTINUED IN BAGUIO TOMORROW "IF PLANS FIRM UP" FOR MARCOS TO ACCOMPANY THAI PARTY TO THE SUMMER CAPITAL.

4. COMMENT: EMPHASIS ON VIETNAM-ORIGIN ARMS IS NOT SURPRISING. ASIDE FROM THE FACT THAT IT IS BASED ON GENUINE APPREHENSIONS, BOTH LEADERS PROBABLY FIND IT USEFUL TO AIR THIS ISSUE AS MEANS OF KEEPING CREDIBLE EXTERNAL SECURITY THREAT IN PUBLIC MIND, WHILE AT SAME TIME ALERTING BOTH U.S. AND, PERHAPS, THEIR NEW SOCIALIST FRIENDS INCLUDING PRC OF THEIR CONCERN AT POSSIBLE INCREASED THREAT TO THEIR INTERNAL STABILITY. WE CANNOT CONFIRM TATAD ALLEGATION OF ARMS LANDING RELATED TO FALL OF VIETNAM.
SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

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